

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 18, and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Teraura. Claims 19 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Laussermair and Nelson. Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Pagnol. Claims 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Ahlstrom and Laussermair. Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Kelly. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Mizoguchi. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Jones. Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Tame, and claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Teraura in view of Wallen.

All of the claim rejections rely on Teraura as a primary reference. However, Teraura is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), or any other section of 35 U.S.C. §102, for claims supported by the priority document, for the following reasons. In the instant application, the German priority document was filed March 13, 2002. That date precedes the April 22, 2002 U.S. filing date of Teraura. Enclosed is a Certified Translation of a copy of the Priority Document. Applicants hereby claim the benefit of their priority document under 35 U.S.C. §119 and thus Teraura is now removed as a reference for all claims supported by the priority document.

It may be observed from the priority document copy Exhibit B compared to the published PCT application, that there are differences, the primary differences being the addition of Figures 7-10 with accompanying subject matter in the PCT

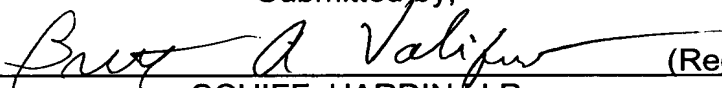
application. However since Figures 1-6 and the accompanying subject matter in the priority document fully support at least the independent claims 18, 31, 34, 36, and 39, that Teraura is removed as a prior art reference at least as to these independent claims fully supported by the priority document.

Additional independent and dependent claims 36-41 have been added.

Applicants further note the following. In new independent claims 36 and 39, the term "written or read without contact" is used. It is to be understood in both a method and system context of these independent claims that the invention as claimed in these independent claims does not require the capability of both writing *and* reading, that is set in dependent claims 37 and 40.

As to the phrase "wherein data of at least one of a user program, of the printed document, and of the data medium are linked in a file" in claims 18, 31, 34, 36, and 39, the words "at least one of" does not refer to the number of user programs, printed documents, or data mediums, but rather that data of at least one of the three listed items are linked in the file.

Submitted by,

 (Reg. 27,841)

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